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**If you own birds
or know someone
who does...**

**You need to
read this!**

You are the best protection your birds have.



LOOK
for Signs.

Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs (AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.



REPORT

Sick Birds.

Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call

- Your local cooperative extension office, or
- Local veterinarian, or
- The State Veterinarian, or
- USDA-Veterinary Services' toll-free hotline
(1-866-536-7593).



PRACTICE

Backyard Biosecurity.

Protect your birds:

- Limit traffic to and from your property.
- If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds.
- Wash hands thoroughly before entering the bird area. Clean and disinfect your shoes, clothes, hands, egg trays, or flats often.
- Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms or bird owners when possible.
- Keep new birds separate from the rest of your flock.
- If you have been near other birds or bird owners (e.g., at a feed store), clean and disinfect car and truck tires and wheel wells, poultry cages, and equipment before going home.

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WHY BE CONCERNED?

END (exotic Newcastle disease) is a deadly disease that can spread quickly and kill most birds.

"Bird flu" (avian influenza—AI) is a contagious viral disease that can infect many types of birds.

Not only could an outbreak of a bird disease such as END or the highly pathogenic form of AI harm or kill your birds, it could spread quickly and kill other nearby birds. Early detection and reporting are the most important steps in eradicating a disease outbreak.

State and Federal veterinarians want to hear about sick and dying birds.

There is **no charge** for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians to work with you to conduct a disease investigation.

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